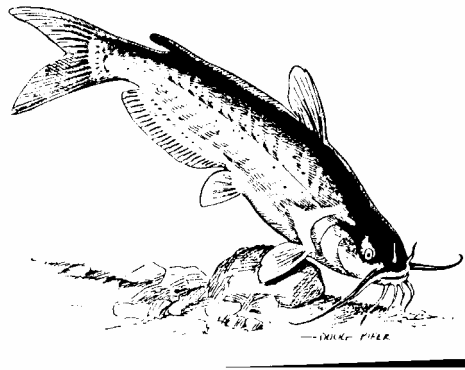


SUMMARY OF HARVEST ESTIMATES AND LICENSE SALES FOR
INDIANA'S INLAND AND OHIO RIVER COMMERCIAL FISHERIES, 2003-2005

Fish Management Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Inland license (and net tag) sales for 2003 to 2005 were 354 (1,365), 344 (1,322), and 338 (1,290). Ohio River license (and net tag) sales for 2003 to 2005 were 29 (630), 32 (630), and 31 (620).
- Reported total inland harvest for 2003 to 2005 was 113,737, 112,248, and 85,925 pounds, respectively. Fluctuations in the total harvest from year to year are due to a number of variables. The greatest influence appears to be major water level fluctuations. Spring, summer, and fall 2005 were extremely hot and dry.
- Inland catfish (channel, flathead, and blue) harvest for 2003 to 2005 was 90,961, 90,195, and 70,549 pounds. Catfish harvest continued from inland waters at rates much greater than the long term average and comprised 80 to 82% of the total catch.
- The estimated monetary value of the 2003, 2004, and 2005 inland commercial harvest was \$322,535, \$318,661, and \$245,167.
- Reported Ohio River harvest for 2003 to 2005 was 116,586, 131,339, and 120,280 pounds. Paddlefish was the most abundant fish harvested by weight and comprised approximately 45% of the annual harvest. Buffalo comprised the second largest portion of total harvest followed by the three catfish species: blue, channel, and flathead catfish.
- Reported paddlefish harvest by number was 2,205 in 2003, 2,481 in 2004, and 3,631 in 2005. Paddlefish egg harvest was 5,275 pounds in 2003, 4,471 lbs in 2004, and 7,553 lbs in 2005. No shovelnose sturgeon harvest was reported during 2003 to 2005.
- The monetary value of the Ohio River commercial fishery was estimated at \$1,442,665 for 2003, \$1,296,386 for 2004, and \$1,940,813 for 2005. Paddlefish eggs comprised the bulk of the monetary value of the fishery (76 to 86%).

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SUMMARY OF HARVEST ESTIMATES AND LICENSE SALES FOR INDIANA'S INLAND AND OHIO RIVER COMMERCIAL FISHERIES, 2003-2005

Fish Management Report

INTRODUCTION

Persons using nets to catch fish from Indiana's rivers are regulated and licensed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Since 1977, fishers using nets on inland rivers have been required to report the species and weight of fish harvested. Although limited in several ways, the harvest reports submitted by commercial fishermen provide an index for evaluation of the river resource.

The objective of this report is to identify major patterns in the river net fishery by examining harvest information and license sales data. This report covers the harvest of 2003, 2004, and 2005. Earlier reports (Glander 1984, 1987; Stefanavage 1990, 1999, 2001; Stefanavage and Kowalik 2007; Blackwell 1991, 1993; Carnahan 1993, 1995a, 1995b, 1996, 1997; Stiras 1998) summarize the 1977 to 2002 harvest estimates and license sales.

A November 1985 United States Supreme Court settlement between the states of Indiana and Kentucky granted Indiana control over a portion of the Ohio River. An Indiana law mandates that Indiana's Ohio River regulations be tailored after Kentucky's. Indiana's DFW started selling Ohio River commercial fishing licenses in January 1988 from the Sugar Ridge Fish and Wildlife Area office. Ohio River commercial fishermen were required to report their harvest effective 1/1/99.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Commercial fishing is currently limited to 923 miles of the Wabash, Ohio, Patoka, and White Rivers, including the East and West Forks of the White (Figure 1). A 200-mile segment of the Wabash River forms the boundary between Indiana and Illinois, and 358 miles of the Ohio River lies between Indiana and Kentucky.

Three different sets of regulations pertain to commercial fishing on the different rivers. Inland (Wabash upriver of the Indiana/Illinois boundary section, Patoka, and White Rivers, including the East and West Forks of the White) regulations are the most restrictive and limit fishers to four hoop nets. Seines and an unlimited number of hoop nets may be used by a fisher in the Wabash River boundary section. Ohio River fishers may use an unlimited amount of gear and may use additional types of gear (gill nets, trammel nets, trotlines, and slat traps). For the



Figure 1. River reaches where commercial fishing is legal (indicated by heavy lines).

purposes of this report,” inland” refers to all inland rivers versus or excluding the Ohio River. See Appendix 1 for the current inland commercial fishing regulations and Appendix 2 for the current Ohio River regulations.

METHODS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE HARVEST ESTIMATES

Licensed net fishermen are required to submit monthly harvest reports indicating the species and weight of fish harvested. Greater communication with the licensees and improved data handling, storage, and analysis capabilities have increased the overall accuracy of the harvest information since 1983; however, all harvest estimates are based on unverified reports. The actual harvest is assumed to be higher than the estimates due to noncompliance with the reporting system, inaccurate reports, and illegal net fishing.

Licensees who are delinquent in submitting their harvest reports are mailed reminder notices. This is done to increase compliance with the mandatory harvest reporting system. Delinquent notices are generally issued in May, September, and at the end of the year. May and September notices simply state the months for which harvest reports are delinquent and request that the fishers submit the reports. January notices are worded more sternly. Licensees are warned that they will not be sold a license for the new year until delinquent reports are received.

Before 1984, harvest estimates were broken down by the licensee’s county of residence and not by the river from which they harvested fish. Five counties contain or adjoin more than one river where net fishing is currently legal (Figure 1); therefore, it was not possible to determine the harvest from each river. Since 1984, commercial fishermen were required to report the river from which they harvested fish. This enabled harvest estimates to be broken down by river.

Starting in 1988, harvest was analyzed by catch per unit effort (CPUE) defined as the pounds of fish harvested per overnight hoop net set. This was determined per river by dividing the particular river's total harvest by the total number of overnight hoop net sets. Most commercial licensees do not complete the monthly harvest report's effort segment correctly; therefore, all effort and CPUE results were analyzed with extreme caution.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

License and Net Tag Sales

Inland net tag and license sales declined significantly in 1985 due to the issuance of a fish

consumption advisory affecting rivers open to commercial fishing (Figure 1). Sales slightly increased after that advisory was rescinded in early 1989, but have shown a general decreasing trend since 1999. License and net tag sales rebounded in 2003 (354 licenses and 1,365 net tags) from record low 2002 levels (317 licenses and 1,183 net tags). Sales declined in 2004 (344 licenses and 1,322 net tags) and declined again in 2005 (338 licenses and 1,290 net tags).

In 1989, 118 Ohio River licenses were sold. Since 1989, license sales had declined from 63 in 1990, to 47 in 1995, 1996, and 1997, to 45 in 1998, and 40 in 1999. License sales increased from 34 in 2000 to 42 in 2001, but fell to a record low of 30 in 2002. License sales declined to 29 in 2003, increased to 32 in 2004, and declined to 31 in 2005. Net tag sales increased from the record low of 520 in 1999 to 630 in 2003 and 2004 and declined to 620 in 2005.

Historically, sales of inland commercial fishing licenses have been concentrated in counties where a relatively large population has access to a substantial river resource (Glander 1984). Dubois, Fountain, Gibson, Knox, Pike, Posey, and Vermillion counties have generally had the most licensed commercial fisherman (Table 1).

The portion of licensees submitting all of their monthly harvest reports on time as required was 58% for 2003 and 55% for 2004 (Table 2). For 2003 and 2004, 88% of the licensees eventually submitted all required reports. This information was not available for 2005.

Most harvest reports submitted in response to the final delinquent notice indicated that no fishing activity occurred during the months in question. This information is suspect since reports submitted for fishing activity seven or eight months after the deadline are likely inaccurate. Final delinquent notices are an effective method of increasing compliance with the mandatory reporting provision of the administrative rule; however, they produce little information which directly adds to the harvest estimates.

Trends in the Estimated Inland Harvest

Due to the factors which limit the accuracy of the harvest estimates, emphasis should not be placed on the numerical estimates themselves; rather, trends in the estimated harvest should be identified and analyzed. By looking at trends, which are less biased than the estimates, the harvest information provided by inland commercial fishermen can be useful.

Reported total harvest for 2003, 2004, and 2005 was 113,737, 112,248, and 85,925

pounds, respectively (Table 3). The relationship between net tag sales and total estimated harvest was generally not linearly positive (Figure 2). The largest harvests have not occurred in the years when the most tags were sold. For instance, the 1993 harvest was 92,103 pounds less than the 1985 harvest with only 21 more net tags sold. Many factors other than the number of net tags sold influence the total estimated harvest.

Fluctuations in the total harvest from year to year are due to a number of variables. The greatest influence appears to be major water level fluctuations. During high water events, fishermen lose nets, cannot find nets, or are prevented from checking or setting nets. During severe droughts, fishermen just do not catch many fish as the fish appear to stay in deep water. Other factors influencing harvest are consumption advisories, hoop net theft, and fish theft. The low overall 2005 harvest can be attributed to severe drought and excessively high water temperature during that spring, summer, and fall.

Catfish (channel, flathead, and blue) harvest declined slightly from 2002 (92,942 pounds) to 2003 (90,961 pounds) and from 2003 to 2004 (90,195 pounds). The 2005 catfish harvest was substantially lower at 70,549 pounds. During 2003, 2004, and 2005, catfish harvest continued from inland waters at rates much greater than the long term average (Figure 3). Since 1995, combined catfish harvest has ranged from 77% to 85% of total catch, while less valuable species such as carp, buffalo, and suckers continue to be less sought after. Catfish comprised 80%, 80%, and 82% of the total harvest during 2003, 2004, and 2005, respectively.

Channel catfish harvest declined from 2002 (46,553 pounds) to 2003 (43,852 pounds), declined again in 2004 (43,197 pounds), and then declined more substantially in 2005 to 38,858 pounds (Figure 4). Flathead catfish harvest increased from 2002 (35,560 pounds) to 2003 (35,711 pounds), declined slightly in 2004 (35,253 pounds), and declined substantially in 2005 to 23,038 pounds. Blue catfish harvest rose from 2002 (10,829 pounds) to 2003 (11,398 pounds), rose again in 2004 (11,745 pounds), and dropped significantly during 2005 (8,653 pounds). Catfish relative abundance during 2005 ranged from 73.6% for the East Fork White River to 87.9% for the West Fork White River (Figure 5).

Total effort (number of overnight hoop net sets) had been on a decreasing trend from 1993 through 1996. From 1990 to 1992, total effort was 61,823, 58,519, and 71,632 overnight hoop net sets, respectively. Since 1993, effort decreased from 57,331 to 45,470 in 1996, a 21%

decrease over four years. In 1997, effort increased by 10% to 55,473 overnight hoop net sets. Effort dropped to 48,254 sets in 1998, 41,838 sets in 1999, and less than 37,000 sets from 2000 to 2002. Effort increased to 43,958 sets in 2003, dropped slightly to 42,011 sets in 2004, and then declined substantially to 34,448 sets during 2005 (Appendix 3, 4, and 5).

Retail values used to determine monetary estimates were \$3.00/pound for catfish and \$2.18/pound for other fish. The estimated monetary value of the 2003, 2004, and 2005 harvest was \$322,535, \$318,661, and \$245,167 compared to \$215,080 for 2001 and \$315,001 for 2002.

Distribution of Harvest by Inland River

Harvest estimates per river did not necessarily correspond to the miles of river open to commercial fishing. This can be easily explained by the difference in river size. For example, the lower Wabash River near Vincennes has an average annual flow of 13,730 cubic feet per second (CFS) and may reach a width of one mile. In contrast, the Patoka River at Winslow has an annual average flow of 590 CFS and is only approximately 100 feet wide.

The Wabash River accounted for approximately half of the total inland harvest from 2003 to 2005 (Table 4). Patoka River harvest ranged from 5.9% of the annual total from 2003 to 9.5% for 2005. The Main Stem White River accounted for approximately a fourth of the total inland harvest during the reporting period. East Fork White River harvest ranged from 8.1% to 12.0% while West Fork White River harvest ranged from 6.9% to 16.6% of the annual harvest from 2003 to 2005.

Ohio River Harvest

Ohio River commercial fishers reported a total harvest of 116,586 pounds in 2003 (Appendix 6), 131,339 lbs in 2004 (Appendix 7), and 120,280 lbs in 2005 (Appendix 8). As in previous years, paddlefish was the most abundant fish harvested by weight. Reported annual paddlefish harvest from 2003 to 2005 ranged from 47,286 to 66,350 pounds. Paddlefish on average comprised approximately 45% of the total reported harvest. Buffalo comprised the second largest portion of total harvest from 2003 to 2005 followed by the three catfish species: blue, channel, and flathead catfish.

The number of paddlefish reported harvested was 2,205 in 2003, 2,481 in 2004, and 3,631 in 2005. Paddlefish egg harvest was 5,275 pounds in 2003, 4,471 lbs in 2004, and 7,553 lbs in 2005. No shovelnose sturgeon harvest was reported during 2003 to 2005.

Retail values used to determine monetary estimates were \$3.00/pound for catfish, \$2.18/pound for other fish, and \$220/pound for paddlefish eggs. The monetary value of the Ohio River commercial fishery was estimated at \$1,442,665 for 2003, \$1,296,386 for 2004, and \$1,940,813 for 2005. Paddlefish eggs comprised the bulk of the monetary value of the fishery (76 to 86%).

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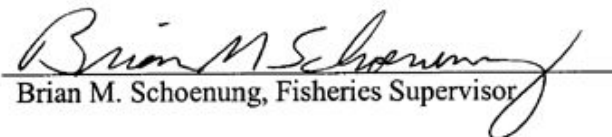
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Date: June 14, 2007

Approved by: 
Brian M. Schoenung, Fisheries Supervisor

Date: August 29, 2007

Table 1. Number of inland commercial fishermen by county, Avg. 1984 to 2005, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

County	Avg. 1984 to 2005	Number of Fishermen		
		2003	2004	2005
Daviess	12	13	11	17
Dubois	35	27	28	24
Fountain	28	18	20	23
Gibson	62	56	58	53
Greene	22	11	13	14
Knox	47	36	42	39
Martin	5	5	8	6
Parke	12	9	11	8
Pike	51	58	54	54
Posey	33	31	29	27
Sullivan	12	10	9	6
Tippecanoe	4	2	1	5
Vermillion	35	25	24	21
Vigo	27	25	17	15
Warren	8	9	6	7
Other	24	19	13	19
TOTALS	418	354	344	338

Table 2. Number of inland commercial fishing licenses sold, number of licensees submitting all required monthly harvest reports on time and response to final delinquent notice, 1979 to 2005.

Year	Licenses Sold	Number Submitting All Reports On Time	Percent	Number Responding To Final Notice	Total % Sending In All Reports
1979	470	261	56	84	73
1980	534	340	64	88	80
1981	530	329	62	116	84
1982	579	*	*	*	*
1983	607	387	64	138	86
1984	604	425	70	109	88
1985	475	364	77	73	92
1986	447	303	68	93	89
1987	469	273	58	157	92
1988	449	263	59	158	94
1989	492	237	48	201	89
1990	481	231	48	181	86
1991	464	271	58	153	91
1992	490	250	51	162	84
1993	454	261	57	149	90
1994	445	302	68	108	92
1995	423	149	35	236	91
1996	421	274	65	97	88
1997	411	284	69	95	92
1998	400	84	21	221	76
1999	342	230	67	46	81
2000	370	188	51	118	83
2001	349	203	58	67	77
2002	317	181	57	107	91
2003	354	207	58	103	88
2004	344	189	55	112	88
2005	338	*	*	*	*
Avg 1979 to 2005	447	259	58	127	87

*Delinquent notice information unavailable.

Table 3. Inland commercial fishing license sales, net tag sales, and total estimated harvest, Avg. 1977 to 2005.

Year	Number of Licenses Sold	Number of Tags Sold	Estimated Total Harvest (pounds)
1977	544	1,689	194,419
1978	451	1,551	210,145
1979	470	1,603	198,719
1980	534	1,788	234,048
1981	530	1,894	228,402
1982	579	2,012	*
1983	607	2,106	210,515
1984	604	2,072	197,355
1985	475	1,658	201,889
1986	447	1,657	162,217
1987	469	1,740	142,404
1988	449	1,682	128,271
1989	492	1,839	185,123
1990	481	1,847	169,249
1991	464	1,784	117,382
1992	490	1,745	121,201
1993	454	1,631	109,786
1994	445	1,588	94,509
1995	423	1,624	102,613
1996	421	1,595	103,225
1997	411	1,588	104,657
1998	400	1,513	102,774
1999	342	1,329	99,417
2000	370	1,387	92,144
2001	349	1,254	75,978
2002	317	1,183	109,536
2003	354	1,365	113,737
2004	344	1,322	112,248
2005	338	1,290	85,925
Avg. 1977 to 2005	450	1,632	143,139

*1982 harvest estimate unavailable.

Table 4. Distribution of 1987 to 2005 inland commercial harvest (pounds) and commercial fishing resource (miles of river) by river segment. Numbers in parenthesis are percent of the total.

River Segment	Resource (Miles)*	Avg. 1987-2005	2003	2004	2005
Wabash	310.0 (59.9)	59,526 (52.1)	55,267(48.6)	47,078 (41.9)	44,497 (51.8)
Patoka	86.0 (15.2)	7,638 (6.7)	10,806 (9.5)	8,744 (7.8)	5,087 (5.9)
White-Main Stem	49.5 (8.8)	20,115 (17.6)	29,372 (25.8)	30,680 (27.3)	15,087 (17.6)
White-East Fork	34.5 (6.1)	11,979 (10.5)	10,491 (9.2)	13,494 (12.0)	6,953 (8.1)
White-West Fork	85.0 (15.0)	14,961 (13.1)	7,801 (6.9)	12,252 (10.9)	14,301 (16.6)
TOTALS	565	114,219	113,737	112,248	85,925

*From Hoggatt, 1975

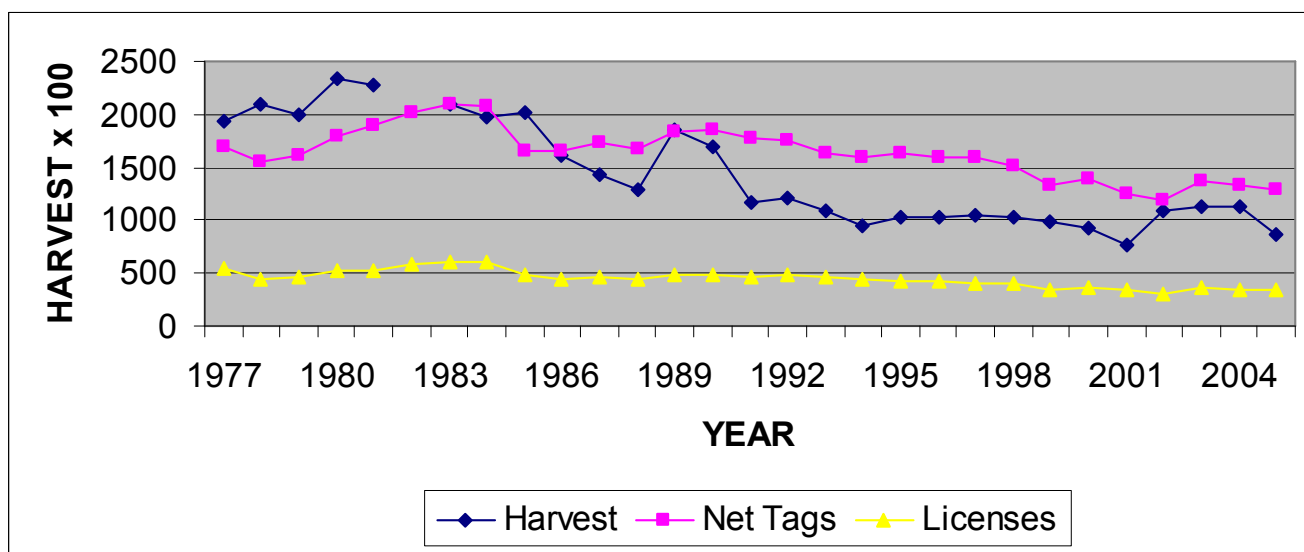


Figure 2. Estimated total harvest (pounds x 100), number of nets sold, and number of licenses sold, 1977 to 2005.

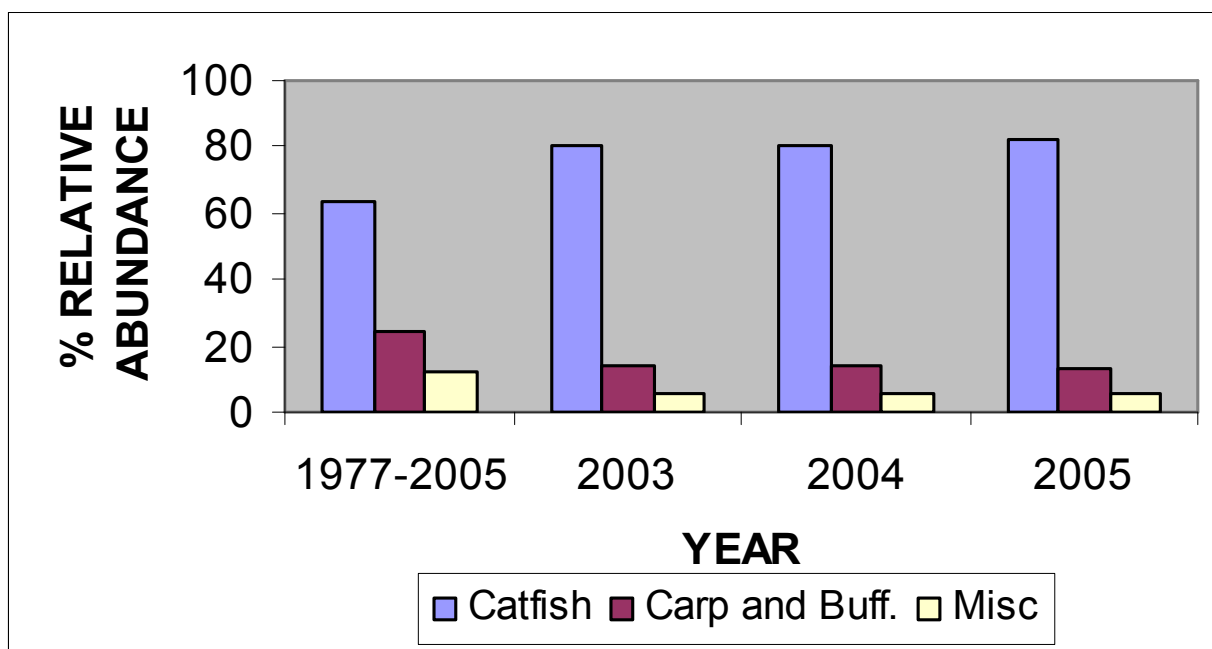


Figure 3. Relative abundance (percent of the total weight harvested) of catfish, carp, buffalo, and other commercially valuable fish in the inland commercial harvest, avg. 1977 to 2005, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

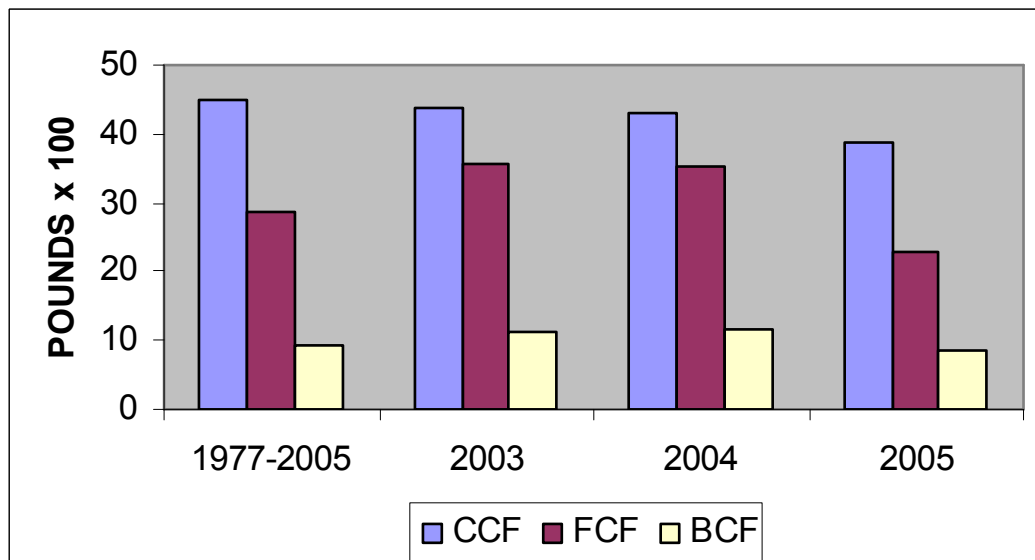


Figure 4. Estimated harvest (pounds x 1000) of channel, flathead, and blue catfish in the inland commercial fishery, Avg. 1977 to 2005, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

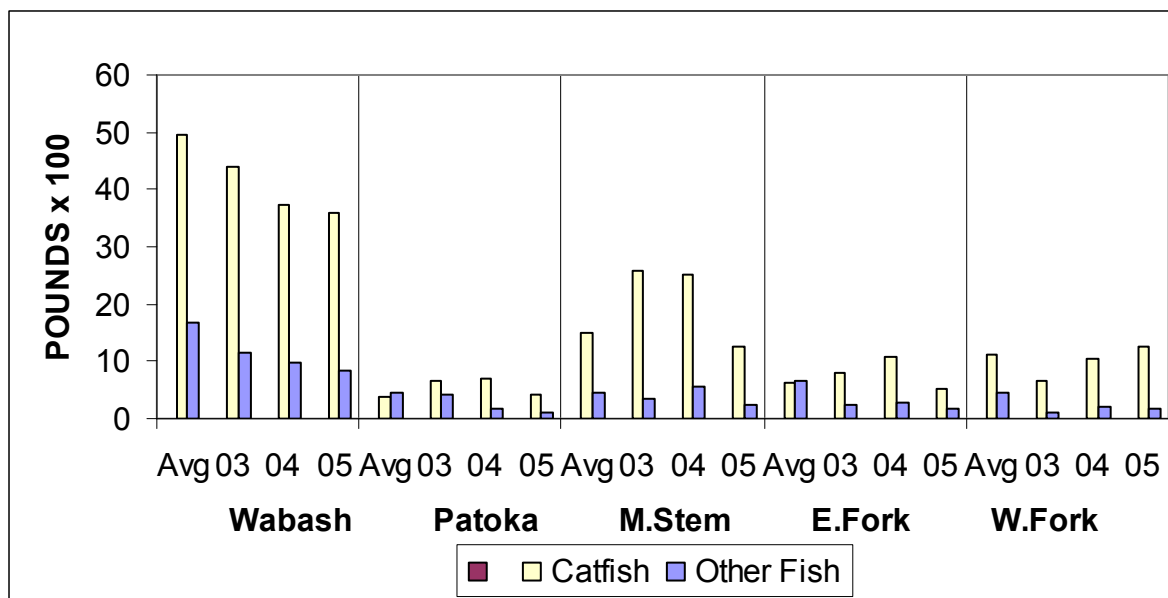


Figure 5. Estimated weight (pounds x 1000) of fish harvested by licensed inland commercial fishermen from the Wabash, Patoka, and White Rivers, Average 1984 to 2005, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

Appendix 1. Inland commercial fishing regulations (4/14/07).

Rule 8. Commercial Fishing

312 IAC 9-8-1 Applicability

Authority: IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-13

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 1. This rule applies to a person who is issued a commercial fishing license by the department. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-8-1; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2721; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286*)

312 IAC 9-8-2 Commercial fishing except on the Ohio River; general provisions

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-13

Affected: IC 14-22-14-23

Sec. 2. (a) This section applies to commercial fishing on:

- (1) waters of this state;
- (2) boundary waters; or
- (3) waters containing state-owned fish;

other than the Ohio River.

(b) No person may take or sell fish except under this section and 312 IAC 9-10. A person may take fish with the aid of illumination of:

- (1) a spotlight;
- (2) a searchlight; or
- (3) an artificial light;

where lawfully engaged in commercial fishing.

(c) A person subject to this section must not possess trout or salmon.

(d) A person must not possess or sell any of the following taken from the waters described in subsection (a):

- (1) Chubs.
- (2) Northern pike.
- (3) Chain pickerel.
- (4) Muskellunge.
- (5) Tiger muskellunge.
- (6) White bass.
- (7) Yellow bass.
- (8) Striped bass.
- (9) Hybrid striped bass.
- (10) Walleye.
- (11) Sauger.
- (12) Saugeye.
- (13) Smallmouth bass.
- (14) Largemouth bass.
- (15) Spotted bass.
- (16) Bluegill.
- (17) Redear sunfish.
- (18) Rock bass.
- (19) Crappie.
- (20) American eel.
- (21) Paddlefish.
- (22) Lake sturgeon.
- (23) Lake herring.
- (24) Blue catfish less than ten (10) inches long.
- (25) Channel catfish less than ten (10) inches long.
- (26) Flathead catfish less than ten (10) inches long.
- (27) Lake whitefish less than eighteen (18) inches long.
- (28) Yellow perch.

(29) Shovelnose sturgeon taken on June 1 through September 30. Shovelnose sturgeon taken from October 1 through May 31 must be at least twenty-five (25) inches in fork length.

A person who possesses or sells a fish described in this subsection must comply with 312 IAC 9-10-2.

(e) This subsection governs the reporting of fish catches as follows:

(1) A license holder, other than a license holder on Lake Michigan, shall keep accurate daily records on a departmental form of the following:

(A) The pounds and species of fish caught.

(B) The number of pieces of each type of gear fished by date.

(C) The county fished.

The license holder shall submit the completed form to the division by the fifteenth day of each month for the preceding month whether the license holder fished or not. The license holder shall allow on-board and dockside inspections of the gear and catch at any time by the director or the director's representative.

(2) A license holder on Lake Michigan must comply with the reporting requirements of IC 14-22-14-23 and section 3(g) of this rule.

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-8-2; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2721; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3724; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Feb 27, 2007, 2:25 p.m.: 20070328-IR-312060262FRA)

312 IAC 9-8-4 Commercial fishing on the Wabash River boundary waters

Authority: IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-13

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 4. (a) This section applies to commercial fishing conducted on the Wabash River boundary waters between Indiana and Illinois and is supplemental to section 2 of this rule.

(b) A license holder under this section may use a dip-net, hoop-net, fyke-net, basket-net, basket-trap, or trap-net made of twine or cords, with or without wings or leads. It is unlawful to use wings or leads constructed of any twine or cord smaller than size 9 (forty-two thousandths (0.042) inches) diameter. It is unlawful to use a net more than two hundred (200) feet long, including wings and leads. It is unlawful to use a net having stretch mesh less than two (2) inches. It is unlawful to use a net seine which obstructs more than one-half (½) of the width of the river.

(c) A license holder may use a seine. It is unlawful to use a seine which exceeds two hundred (200) feet long. It is unlawful to use a seine having stretch mesh less than five (5) inches. It is unlawful to use a seine which obstructs more than one-half (½) of the width of the river.

(d) Each piece of fishing gear in use must be tended not less frequently than once every forty-eight (48) hours. Fish taken by the gear must be removed. Each item of gear must be removed from the waters fished immediately upon the completion of fishing. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-8-4; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2725; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3727; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286)*

312 IAC 9-8-5 Commercial fishing on inland rivers

Authority: IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-13

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 5. (a) This section applies to commercial fishing on inland rivers of Indiana and is supplemental to section 2 of this rule.

(b) It is unlawful to conduct commercial fishing on inland waters containing state-owned fish or waters of this state, except for the following rivers:

(1) The Wabash River downstream from the city limits of Lafayette to where the river forms the boundary between Indiana and Illinois.

(2) The White River downstream from the junction of its east and west forks to where the White River joins the Wabash River.

(3) The west fork of the White River downstream from its junction with the Eel River in Greene County to the junction of the east and west forks of the White River.

(4) The east fork of the White River downstream from its junction with the Lost River in Martin County to the junction of the east and west forks of the White River.

(5) The Patoka River three hundred (300) yards downstream of the dam below the State Road 164 bridge in the city of Jasper to where the Patoka River joins the Wabash River.

(c) A license holder under this section may use hoop-nets or trap-nets made of twine or cord. It is unlawful to use more than four (4) hoop-nets or trap-nets. It is unlawful to use a net having a diameter, width, or height of more than six (6) feet. It is unlawful to use a net having stretch mesh less than two (2) inches.

(d) Each piece of fishing gear in use must be tended not less frequently than once every forty-eight (48) hours. Fish taken by the gear must be removed. Each item of gear must be removed from the waters fished immediately upon the completion of fishing. *(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-8-5; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2725; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3727; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286)*

Appendix 2. Ohio River commercial fish regulation (4/14/07).

312 IAC 9-8-6 Commercial fishing on the Ohio River

Authority: IC 14-10-2-4; IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-13

Affected: IC 14-22

Sec. 6. (a) This section applies to commercial fishing on the Ohio River.

(b) No person shall take or sell fish except in accordance with this section and 312 IAC 9-10. A person may take fish with the aid of illumination of:

- (1) a spotlight;
- (2) a searchlight; or
- (3) an artificial light;

where lawfully engaged in commercial fishing.

(c) A license holder under this section may take and sell all species of fish from the Ohio River except the following:

- (1) Largemouth bass.
- (2) Smallmouth bass.
- (3) Spotted bass.
- (4) Rock bass.
- (5) White crappie.
- (6) Black crappie.
- (7) Walleye.
- (8) Sauger.
- (9) Saugeye.
- (10) Striped bass.
- (11) White bass.
- (12) Hybrid striped bass.
- (13) Yellow bass.
- (14) Muskellunge.
- (15) Northern pike.
- (16) Tiger muskellunge.
- (17) Chain pickerel.
- (18) Lake sturgeon.
- (19) Trout.
- (20) Salmon.

(21) Shovelnose sturgeon taken on June 1 through September 30. Shovelnose sturgeon taken from October 1 through May 31 must be at least twenty-five (25) inches in fork length.

(d) A license holder under this section must tag each item of gear so that a conservation officer may determine if the:

- (1) gear is properly licensed; and
- (2) license holder is complying with the law.

(e) No person shall possess a seine, net, or commercial trotline except as authorized for a commercial fishing license for the Ohio River. This subsection does not apply to a manufacturer, retailer, or wholesale dealer who possesses gear exclusively for sale.

(f) Commercial fishing nets authorized under this section cannot be used on a bay or inlet of the Ohio River. A line drawn from point to point of a bay or inlet denotes the limits of the fishing zone. Commercial gear cannot be used within fifty (50) yards of the mouth of a stream. Commercial gear, except slat traps, cannot be used in the following locations:

- (1) John T. Myers Dam downstream to the outer lock wall and the portion of the split channel around the southern part of Wabash Island from the fixed weir dam to the first dike.
- (2) Newburgh Dam downstream to the end of the outer lock wall.
- (3) Cannelton Dam downstream to the end of the outer lock wall.
- (4) McAlpine Dam downstream to the K and I railroad bridge.
- (5) Markland Dam downstream to the end of the outer lock wall.

(g) Each item of fishing gear in use must be tended not less frequently than once every twenty-four (24) hours and all fish taken by the gear removed, except that baited hoop nets or slat traps may be left unattended for not more than seventy-two (72) hours. Each item of gear must be removed from the waters in which the item was fished immediately upon usage.

(h) Gear is authorized only as set forth as follows:

- (1) Lines and mesh must be made of:
 - (A) linen;
 - (B) cotton; or

- (C) a flexible synthetic fiber.
- (2) The following restrictions apply to a hoop net, wing net, straight lead net, or heart lead net:
 - (A) Each net described in this subdivision must have a minimum bar mesh size of one (1) inch.
 - (B) Hoops may be any size, shape, or material.
 - (C) The maximum length of the lead or wing is sixty (60) feet.
 - (D) One (1) tag must be attached to the front hoop of each net.
- (3) The following restrictions apply to a gill or trammel net:
 - (A) The minimum bar mesh size is four (4) inches.
 - (B) The nets referenced in this subdivision may be fished weighted or as a flag net.
 - (C) A tag must be attached to the net at intervals not less than one hundred (100) feet apart.
- (4) The following restrictions apply to a commercial trotline:
 - (A) Each line must have more than fifty (50) hooks placed not closer than eighteen (18) inches apart.
 - (B) One (1) tag must be attached.
 - (C) The trotline must be:
 - (i) not longer than three thousand (3,000) feet, including staging; and
 - (ii) fished separately rather than tied in a continuous line.
- (5) The following restrictions apply to a seine:
 - (A) A seine must have the following:
 - (i) A minimum bar mesh size of one (1) inch.
 - (ii) Both float and lead lines.
 - (iii) Wood, fiberglass, metal poles, or brails attached to each end.
 - (B) A seine in the water must be attended by persons pulling the seine through the water for the entrapment of fish.
 - (C) A seine must have a tag attached at intervals not less than one hundred (100) feet apart.
- (6) The following restrictions apply to a slat trap basket:
 - (A) No wire or other mesh may be added to the trap.
 - (B) At least two (2) openings not less than one and one-fourth (1¼) inches wide must be located between the slats. These openings shall not be restricted by cross-bracings shorter than eight (8) inches long.
 - (C) The trap shall be not larger than two (2) feet in diameter or square end measure.
 - (D) A tag must be attached to the open ring or square.
- (i) A license holder must do the following:
 - (1) Keep accurate daily catch records on a departmental form of the following:
 - (A) The pounds and species of fish caught by gear type.
 - (B) The number of paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon caught by gear type.
 - (C) The pounds of paddlefish, shovelnose sturgeon, sucker, and eggs sold.
 - (D) The location fished by pool, river mile, and county.
 - (2) Submit to the department the completed form required under subdivision (1) by the fifteenth day of each month for the preceding month whether the license holder fished or not.
 - (3) Allow on-board and dockside inspection of the gear and catch at any time by the director or the director's representative.

(Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-8-6; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2725; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3727; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; filed Feb 27, 2007, 2:25 p.m.: 20070328-IR-312060262FRA)

Appendix 3. Estimated weight (pounds) and CPUE of fish harvested from Indiana's inland commercial fishery, 2003.

Species	REPORTED HARVEST (POUNDS)					Species Total
	Wabash	Patoka	White Main Stem	White East Fork	White West Fork	
Channel catfish	20,011	3,004	14,475	3,701	2,661	43,852
Flathead catfish	17,491	3,122	8,602	3,290	3,206	35,711
Blue catfish	6,387	382	2,842	915	872	11,398
Carp	292	101	169	241	221	1,024
Buffalo	8,476	3,693	1,994	744	449	15,356
Suckers	399	25	790	239	225	1,678
Drum	1,231	479	240	1,311	167	3,428
Other fish	980		260	50		1,290
Totals	55,267	10,806	29,372	10,491	7,801	113,737
Effort (no. nets)	18,386	4,263	13,694	5,179	2,436	43,958
CPUE (lbs./net)	3.01	2.53	2.14	2.03	3.20	2.59
Species	CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT (CPUE)					Species Total
	Wabash	Patoka	White Main Stem	White East Fork	White West Fork	
Channel catfish	1.09	0.70	1.06	0.71	1.09	1.00
Flathead catfish	1.19	0.84	0.88	1.04	1.13	1.05
Blue catfish	0.43	0.10	0.29	0.29	0.31	0.33
Carp	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.08	0.08	0.03
Buffalo	0.58	0.99	0.20	0.23	0.16	0.45
Suckers	0.03	0.01	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.05
Drum	0.08	0.13	0.02	0.41	0.06	0.10
Other fish	0.07	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.04

Appendix 4. Estimated weight (pounds) and CPUE of fish harvested from Indiana's inland commercial fishery, 2004.

Species	REPORTED HARVEST (POUNDS)					Species Total
	Wabash	Patoka	White Main Stem	White East Fork	White West Fork	
Channel catfish	18,429	3,344	13,165	3,655	4,604	43,197
Flathead catfish	15,593	3,249	7,861	4,073	4,477	35,253
Blue catfish	3,173	447	3,970	2,983	1,172	11,745
Carp	217	75	183	26	117	618
Buffalo	7,756	689	4,186	1,185	900	14,716
Suckers	334	145	504	703	259	1,945
Drum	556	795	577	572	123	2,623
Other fish	1,020		234	297	600	2,151
Totals	47,078	8,744	30,680	13,494	12,252	112,248
Effort (no. nets)	15,733	5,262	12,376	5,674	2,966	42,011
CPUE (lbs./net)	2.99	1.66	2.48	2.38	4.13	2.67
Species	CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT (CPUE)					Species Total
	Wabash	Patoka	White Main Stem	White East Fork	White West Fork	
Channel catfish	1.17	0.64	1.06	0.64	1.55	1.03
Flathead catfish	1.06	0.87	0.81	1.29	1.58	1.03
Blue catfish	0.22	0.12	0.41	0.94	0.41	0.34
Carp	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.02
Buffalo	0.53	0.18	0.43	0.37	0.32	0.43
Suckers	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.22	0.09	0.06
Drum	0.04	0.21	0.06	0.18	0.04	0.08
Other fish	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.09	0.21	0.06

Appendix 5. Estimated weight (pounds) and CPUE of fish harvested from Indiana's inland commercial fishery, 2005.

Species	REPORTED HARVEST (POUNDS)					Species Total
	Wabash	Patoka	White Main Stem	White East Fork	White West Fork	
Channel catfish	21,988	2,271	5,995	2,633	5,971	38,858
Flathead catfish	10,064	1,606	4,088	1,842	5,438	23,038
Blue catfish	4,020	243	2,589	640	1,161	8,653
Carp	452	82	45	144	113	836
Buffalo	6,274	409	1,886	699	837	10,105
Suckers	541	193	444	313	570	2,061
Drum	830	276	34	682	171	1,993
Other fish	328	7	6		40	381
Totals	44,497	5,087	15,087	6,953	14,301	85,925
Effort (no. nets)	13,863	3,640	7,885	3,608	5,452	34,448
CPUE (lbs./net)	3.21	1.40	1.91	1.93	2.62	2.49
Species	CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT (CPUE)					Species Total
	Wabash	Patoka	White Main Stem	White East Fork	White West Fork	
Channel catfish	1.59	0.62	0.76	0.73	1.10	1.13
Flathead catfish	0.68	0.43	0.42	0.58	1.92	0.67
Blue catfish	0.27	0.07	0.27	0.20	0.41	0.25
Carp	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.05	0.04	0.02
Buffalo	0.43	0.11	0.19	0.22	0.30	0.30
Suckers	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.20	0.06
Drum	0.06	0.07	0.00	0.22	0.06	0.06
Other fish	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01

Appendix 6. Reported pounds of fish, number of paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon, and pounds of paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon eggs harvested from Indiana's Ohio River commercial fishery, 2003.

REPORTED HARVEST (POUNDS) PER MONTH

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Species Total
Blue catfish	363	1,095	783	345	632	1,387	152	95	75	497	305	45	5,774
Buffalo	513	33	3,012	3,889	4,938	3,021	3,275	2,075	4,125	3,775	3,285	1,840	33,781
Carp*			113	47	25	40							225
Channel catfish	865	575	1,400	812	1,197	2,537	2,806	1,172	500	82	50		11,996
Drum			200	13	410	309	12						944
Flathead catfish	200	75	379	286	2,267	5,159	7,338	258		183	190	50	16,385
Other**									190	5			195
Paddlefish	6,862	3,049	13,016	19,276	460					343	1,226	3,054	47,286
Shovelnose sturgeon													0
Sucker & redhorse***													0
TOTALS	8,803	4,827	18,903	24,668	9,929	12,453	13,583	3,600	4,890	4,885	5,056	4,989	116,586

REPORTED HARVEST (NUMBER) PER MONTH

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Species Total
Paddlefish	320	141	581	930	23					16	57	137	2,205
Shovelnose sturgeon													0

REPORTED HARVEST (POUNDS OF EGGS) PER MONTH

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Species Total
Paddlefish	586	119	1,984	2,283	64					9	15	215	5,275
Shovelnose sturgeon													0

*Includes bighead, silver, grass, and common carp.

**Includes gar, bowfin, and eel.

***Includes white, spotted, and all redhorses.

Appendix 7. Reported pounds of fish, number of paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon, and pounds of paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon eggs harvested from Indiana's Ohio River commercial fishery, 2004.

REPORTED HARVEST (POUNDS) PER MONTH

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Species Total
Blue catfish	50	270	490	220	1,247	1,585	639	488	395	555	1,323	310	7,572
Buffalo	525	1,575	5,500	5,190	1,483	133	1,705	2,650	5,750	8,375	8,430	3,650	44,966
Carp*													0
Channel catfish	100	150	350	130	964	2,660	4,766	3,455	645	925	150		14,295
Drum				1,153	20	16		21					1,210
Flathead catfish			177	193	1,403	5,792	2,290	355	59	6	110		10,385
Other**			290		150								440
Paddlefish	3,721	5,480	16,650	20,380	850					300	3,120	1,970	52,471
Shovelnose sturgeon													0
Sucker & redhorse***													0
TOTALS	4,396	7,475	23,457	27,266	6,117	10,186	9,400	6,969	6,849	10,161	13,133	5,930	131,339

REPORTED HARVEST (NUMBER) PER MONTH

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Species Total
Paddlefish	167	249	842	887	29					18	177	112	2,481
Shovelnose sturgeon													0

REPORTED HARVEST (POUNDS OF EGGS) PER MONTH

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Species Total
Paddlefish	322	367	1,516	1,726	60					7	236	237	4,471
Shovelnose sturgeon													0

*Includes bighead, silver, grass, and common carp.

**Includes gar, bowfin, and eel.

***Includes white, spotted, and all redhorses.

Appendix 8. Reported pounds of fish, number of paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon, and pounds of paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon eggs harvested from Indiana's Ohio River commercial fishery, 2005.

REPORTED HARVEST (POUNDS) PER MONTH

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Species Total
Blue catfish	780	1,820	2,017	1,509	769	636	569	418	153	1,515	1,845	530	12,561
Buffalo	705	150	4,175	8,462	4,049	2,525	850	940		5,355	3,790	615	31,616
Carp*		225	112	151	60					12	28	41	629
Channel catfish	250		163	258	605	1,069	173	229		775			3,522
Drum			37	412	397				7				853
Flathead catfish	50	60	156	237	748	1,704	113	273	63	450	595	130	4,579
Other**													0
Paddlefish	3,238	7,153	10,373	29,282	2,614	175				2,215	7,760	3,540	66,350
Shovelnose sturgeon				125	20						25		0
Sucker & redhorse***													170
TOTALS	5,023	9,408	17,033	40,436	9,262	6,109	1,705	1,860	223	10,322	14,043	4,856	120,280

REPORTED HARVEST (NUMBER) PER MONTH

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Species Total
Paddlefish	192	433	614	1,465	121	15				135	463	193	3,631
Shovelnose sturgeon													0

REPORTED HARVEST (POUNDS OF EGGS) PER MONTH

Species	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Species Total
Paddlefish	295	462	1,191	4,062	342					129	677	395	7,553
Shovelnose sturgeon													0

*Includes bighead, silver, grass, and common carp.

**Includes gar, bowfin, and eel.

***Includes white, spotted, and all redhorses.